

the following year to \$37,847. The yield for 1906 was 355 tons, valued at \$69,041. The industry was active during 1907 until the financial depression affected it adversely.

Talc first appeared on the list of mineral products in 1899, when the output was valued at \$500. Its production has never attained large proportions, the highest figure being 1,235 tons, valued at \$3,030, in 1906.

The production of graphite reached its highest point in 1900, when the yield was valued at \$27,030. It had decreased to \$9,825 in 1905, but the output of the following year was 1,772 tons, valued at \$15,000.

Corundum was added to the list of mining products in 1900, with a yield valued at \$6,000. Since then the output has been steadily increasing, the returns for 1906 showing a production of 2,914 tons, worth \$262,448.

COAL MINING IN CAPE BRETON DURING 1907.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In looking over the coal production of Cape Breton for 1907, it is seen that outputs on the whole have been smaller than in 1906, and on the face of things it would appear as if little or no advance had been made. It would be very inaccurate, however, to imagine that any slackening of production is to be looked for in the future or that the industrial prosperity of Cape Breton has suffered any setback. The exact converse is the truth, for 1907 has been a year of steady development with normal outputs. The boom days are gone, we hope forever gone, together with the feverish uncertainty and abnormal inflation that characterise such periods.

Work throughout the year has proceeded very steadily and there has been no disturbing feature of any moment. The number of accidents during the twelve months have been in about the same ratio to tonnage as in previous years, and Cape Breton probably occupies the proud position of producing more tonnage per accident than any other coal mining district in the World. It is a matter for congratulation that no one accident involving the loss of more than three lives has occurred during the year.

The coal trade was greatly hampered in the spring by exceptional storms and by heavy fields of drift ice, along the shores of the Island, which persisted until the middle of the month of June. At least a fortnight of March was lost time by reason of snow storms, and on the 7th March Cape Breton was visited with a blizzard of a severity that will be long remembered. The weather conditions of the spring were chiefly responsible for the lower outputs in 1907.

The scarcity of labor was perhaps not so pronounced as in 1906 and 1905, but nevertheless at many of the mines men were scarce. There was no scarcity of general laborers or surfacemen, on the contrary in fact, but miners and under-ground workers generally, were in great demand, particularly at the smaller and remoter collieries on the western side of the Island. In common with the rest of the world Cape Breton suffered from a marked decrease in the productive force of labor, and at every colliery the tonnage produced per man employed was lower than in any previous year. This same phenomenon, for phenomenon it is, has been noticed and commented upon in the United States, in Great Britain, in Germany and in Belgium, and whatever the reason may be it is a fact that the miner of to-day is producing less coal than he has done previously. Although the output in Cape Breton during 1907 fell below that of 1906, the number of men employed was greater in 1907 than in the year preceding.

Taking the collieries from East to West in order, we come first of all to the Port Morien Basin mine, known for many years as the Gowrie mine. The old Gowrie and Blockhouse Company has been acquired by the

North Atlantic Collieries Company, a corporation in which Mr. Ochiltree MacDonald and Mr. F. B. Pearson are prominently interested. The mine is at present producing about 200 tons a day, and it is expected next summer to raise this to 500 tons. The new company is making numerous improvements in plant and general layout and are spending a large amount of money on developments. At present about 200 men are employed in all.

The Broughton Colliery site, which lies back of Port Morien and the areas of the Dominion Coal Company, is quite deserted. The Broughton enterprise was ill starved, like almost every purely English mining company that has been operated in Cape Breton. English capital might yield better returns to the investors in Canadian enterprises if their engineers would take a little native advice. However this may be, Broughton Colliery is not likely to figure as a producer yet awhile.

A good deal has appeared in the press lately about the Cumberland areas, which lie in close proximity to those of the Broughton people. It is stated that the Dominion Iron & Steel Company have obtained an option on them, and will straightway proceed to develop them on a royalty basis. These areas have been only slightly prospected and very little is really known about them. The Steel Company have several drills at work on the ground at the present time. The district is a more or less troubled one, lying as it does between two anticlines, and considerable prospecting will be needed before any large expenditure is justified, so that it is not probable that any immediate development is to be looked for. The Steel Company have spent a lot of money during 1907 on prospecting, having put down bores in several places at the head of Lingan Bay, and in the more or less unexplored territory between that place and Kilkenny Lake, outside the supposed outcrop of the Mullins Seam.

The Dominion Coal Company's mines have passed an uneventful year, work having proceeded very steadily without any particular interruptions. The outputs for the various mines comparing 1906 with 1907, were as follows:—

	1906.	1907.
No. 1 Phalen....	528,160	498,948
" 2 Phalen..	609,140	638,579
" 3 Phalen..	365,236	348,383
" 4 Phalen....	545,003	520,254
" 5 Phalen..	587,824	635,903
" 6 Phalen....	113,467	204,616
" 7 Hub.....	146,412	4,483
" 8 Harbor.....	229,636	224,097
" 9 Harbor....	380,320	363,873
" 10 Emery..	47,818	100,617
Total.....	3,552,746	3,539,753